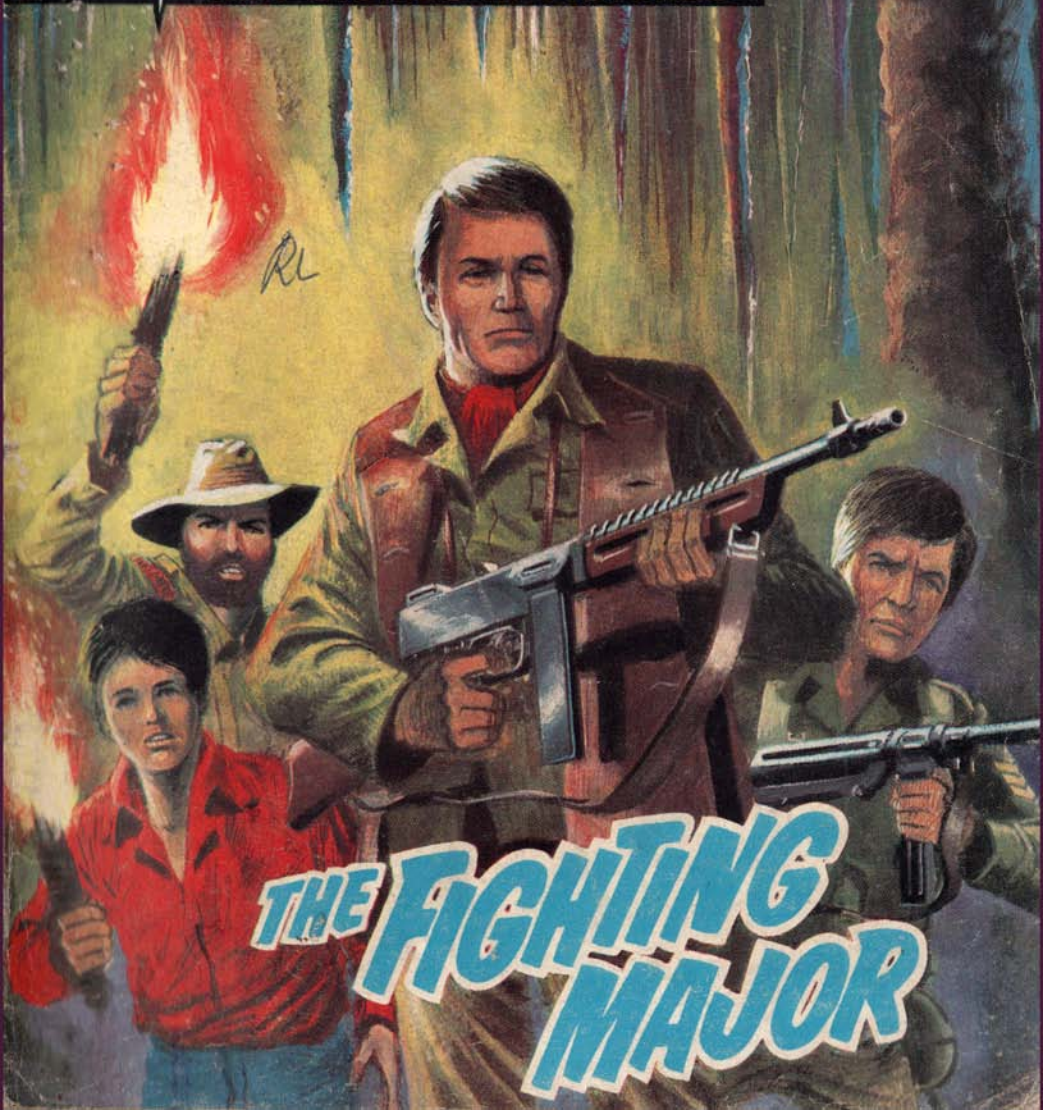


No.
646

Commando

WAR STORIES IN PICTURES



THE FIGHTING MAJOR

KNOW YOUR AIRLINES

AIR FRANCE

Country of Origin:

France.

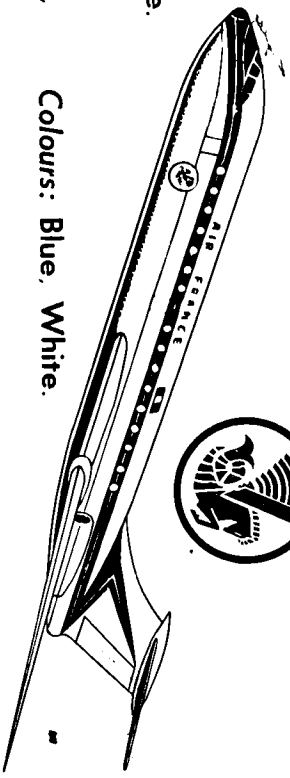
Formed: 1933.

Network: Europe,

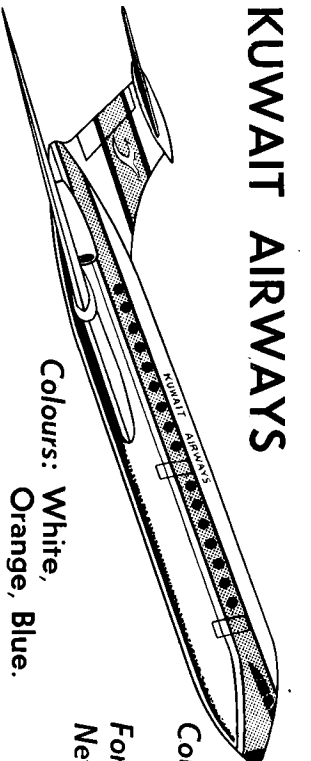
N. America,

Africa.

Colours: Blue, White.



KUWAIT AIRWAYS



Colours: White,
Orange, Blue.

Country of Origin:

Kuwait.

Formed: 1953.

Network: Europe,

Africa,

Middle East.

THE FIGHTING MAJOR

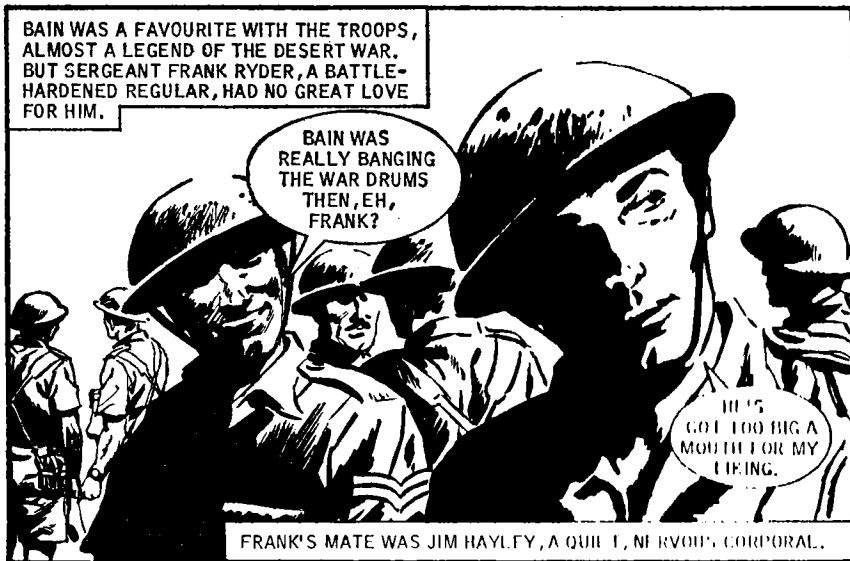
IN A LARGE UNDERGROUND CAVERN ON THE GREEK ISLAND OF THAXOS A FIERCE BATTLE RAGED. THE SCENE WAS LIT ONLY BY FLICKERING WOOD TORCHES AS MAN HUNTED MAN AMONG THE WEIRD, GHOSTLY SHADOWS SILHOUETTED ON THE ROCK WALLS. AND ALL BECAUSE OF A YOUNG GREEK BOY WHO MADE UP IN GUTS WHAT HE LACKED IN INCHES...



IT ALL BEGAN FAR FROM THAXOS - IN NORTH AFRICA. THE MUNTAR RIDGE WAS A KEY-POINT IN THE GERMAN DEFENCE SYSTEM IN THE DESERT. IT WAS WELL DEFENDED BY CRACK NAZI TROOPS - BUT IT HAD TO BE TAKEN. MAJOR GEORGE BAIN WOULD NOT LET THAT.

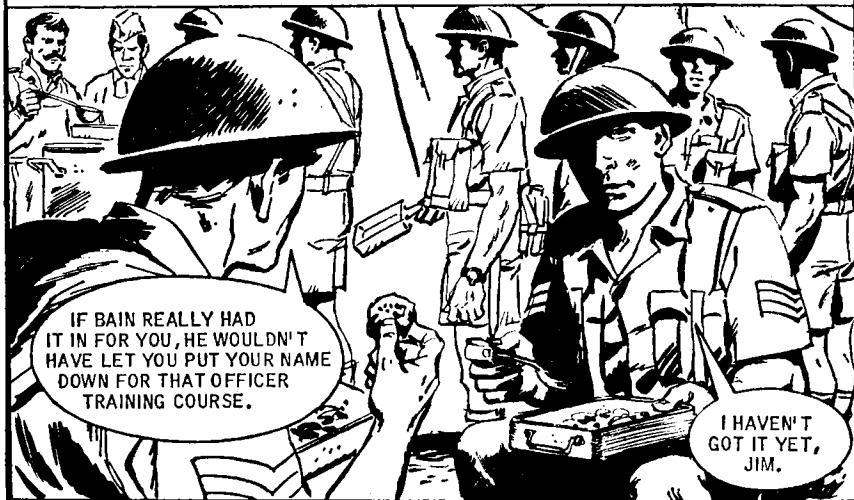


BAIN WAS A FAVOURITE WITH THE TROOPS, ALMOST A LEGEND OF THE DESERT WAR. BUT SERGEANT FRANK RYDER, A BATTLE-HARDENED REGULAR, HAD NO GREAT LOVE FOR HIM.



FRANK'S MATE WAS JIM HAYLIFY, A QUIET, NERVOUS CORPORAL.

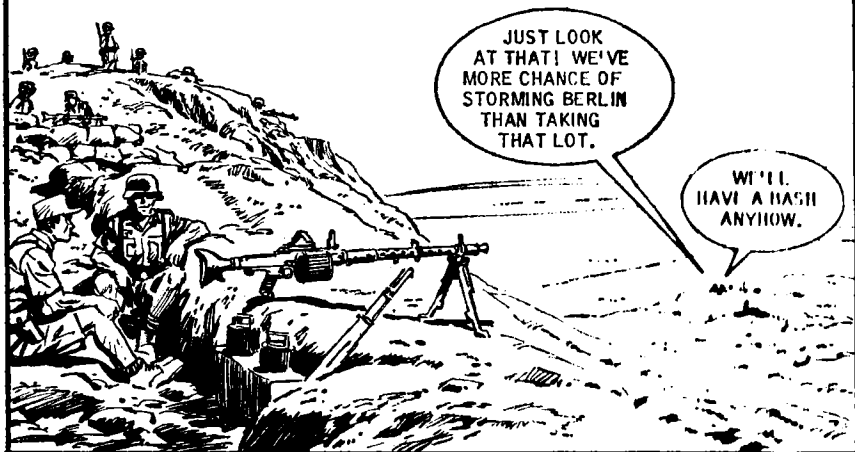
EVER SINCE BAIN HAD PUT HIM ON A CHARGE FOR INSUBORDINATION, FRANK HAD HAD A BIT OF A GRUDGE AGAINST THE TOUGH-TALKING MAJOR.



NEXT DAY FRANK LED HIS PLATOON OUT FOR THE ATTACK ON THE MUNTAR RIDGE.



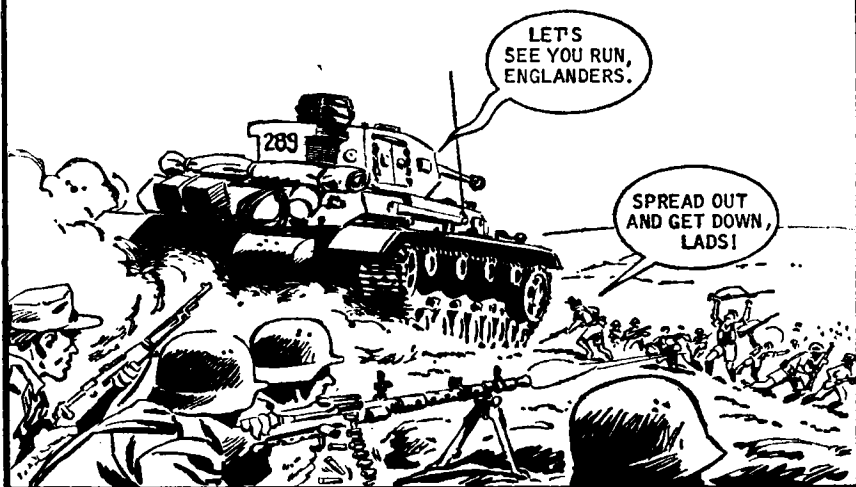
SOON THE MUNTAR RIDGE LOOMED INTO VIEW. JIM HAYLEY, WHO WAS DIFFINITELY NOT THE HERO TYPE, VOICED HIS DOUBTS.



AS THEY EXPECTED, THE ATTACK WAS NO PICNIC. A STORM OF STEEL POURED DOWN FROM THE WELL-ENTRENCHED GERMANS ABOVE.



THEY HAD STRUGGLED ON FOR ONLY A FEW YARDS WHEN A NEW THREAT EMERGED IN THE SHAPE OF A TANK SPOUTING MACHINE-GUN BULLETS.



AS THE DEATH-DEALING GIANT LUMBERED DOWN THE SLOPE, SOMETHING SNAPPED IN JIM HAYLEY -



THEN JIM WAS SCRAMBLING IN FULL FLIGHT DOWN THE SLOPE.



FRANK WENT IN PURSUIT OF HIS FRIEND -



JIM HAD ALMOST BEEN RUN OVER BY A TANK IN A BATTLE EARLY IN THE WAR. HE WAS NOT A COWARD BUT HE NOW HAD THIS TERRIBLE FEAR OF TANKS.



FRANK BULLIED, COAXED AND HUSTLED JIM UP TOWARDS THE FIGHTING AGAIN.



IT DIDN'T TAKE THEM LONG TO SCRAMBLE UP THE SOFT SAND, BUT WHEN THEY REACHED THE RIDGE IT WAS TO FIND IT HAD ALREADY BEEN CAPTURED.



MOVING ALONG THE LINE TO REORGANISE HIS SECTION FRANK RAN INTO AN ANGRY MAJOR BAIN.

NEITHER, SIR.

WERE YOU WOUNDED, SERGEANT, OR DID YOU JUST DECIDE TO TAKE A LITTLE STROLL?



WITHOUT GIVING FRANK A CHANCE TO EXPLAIN HIS DISAPPEARANCE, BAIN EXPLODED.

THEN WHERE THE BLAZES HAVE YOU BEEN? YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE LEADING YOUR SECTION, BUT YOU'VE BEEN HANGING BACK. YOU'LL HEAR ABOUT THIS LATER.



TAKE IT FROM ME, RYDER, THERE WILL BE NO COMMISSION FOR YOU IF I HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH IT.

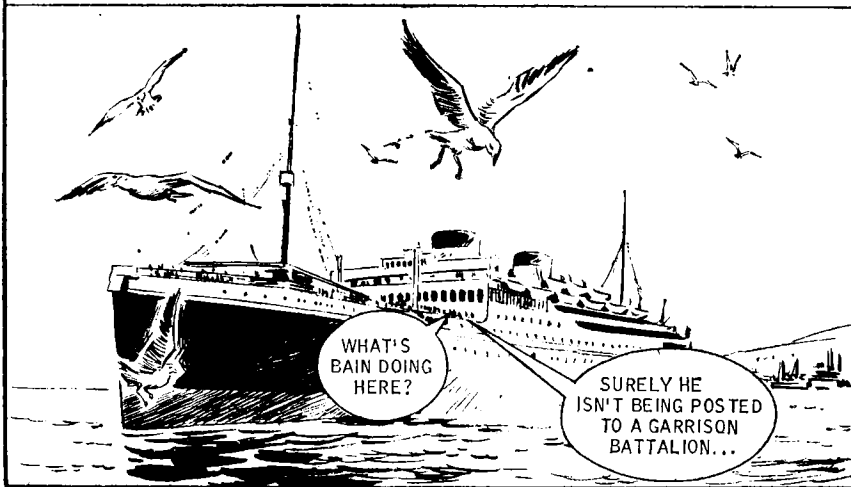
I CAN'T LET ON ABOUT JIM SCARPLING.



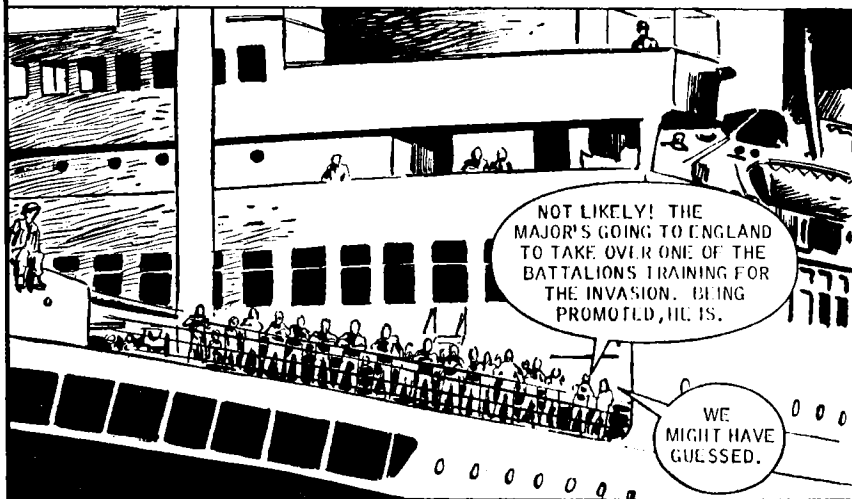
TO FRANK, WHOSE AMBITION IT WAS TO BECOME AN OFFICER, THIS WAS A BITTER BLOW. WORSE WAS TO COME, FOR A FEW DAYS LATER THE REGIMENTAL SERGEANT-MAJOR HAD NEWS FOR HIM.



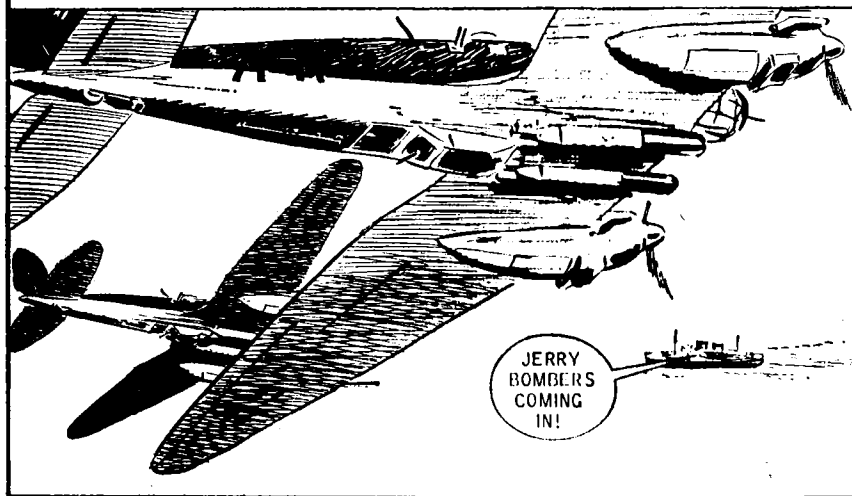
WHEN THE TROOPSHIP LEFT ALEXANDRIA, JIM HAYLEY WAS ON BOARD TOO - HE WAS GOING HOME TO ENGLAND AND A MONTH'S LEAVE. BUT IT WAS ANOTHER PASSENGER WHO CAUGHT FRANK'S ATTENTION.



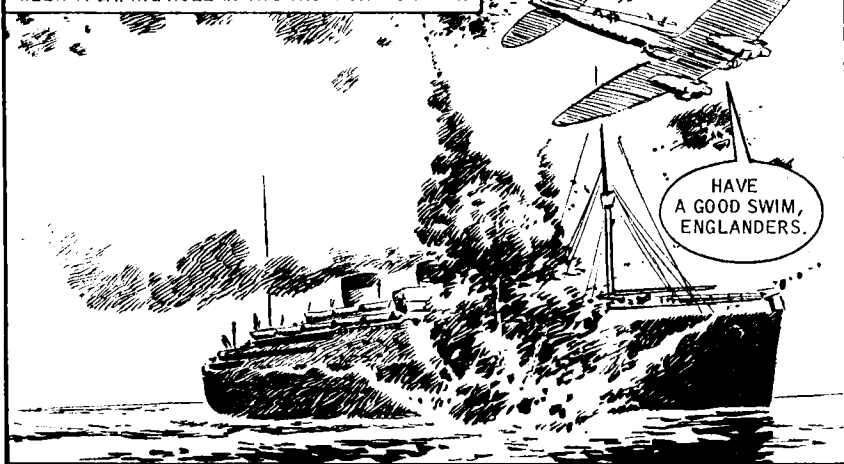
MAJOR BAIN'S BATMAN, WHO HAD BEEN STANDING NEARBY AND HAD OVERHEARD, TURNED ROUND AND SPOKE.



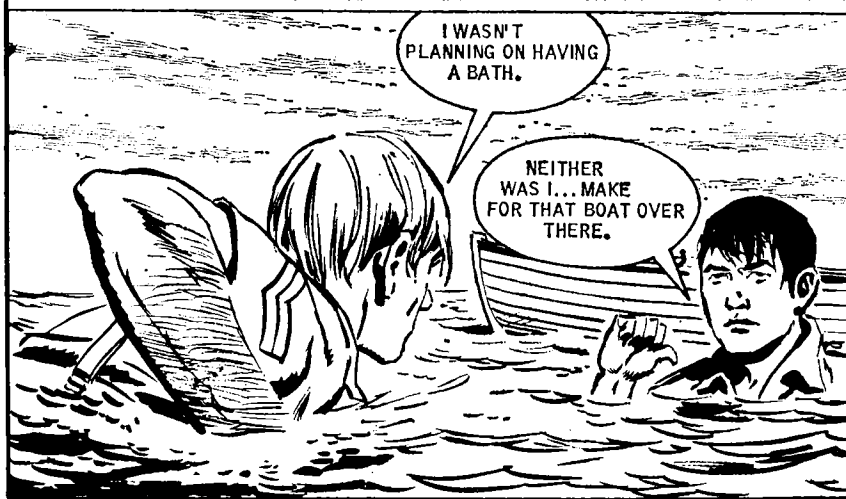
JUST AS NIGHT WAS FALLING A SQUADRON OF GERMAN TORPEDO BOMBERS CAME ROARING IN FROM CRETE AND SWOOPED ON THE SHIP.



IN THE FACE OF HEAVY ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE THE GERMAN PILOTS PRESSED HOME THEIR ATTACK, AND A DIRECT HIT FROM A TORPEDO BLEW A GAPING HOLE IN THE TROOPSHIP'S HULL.



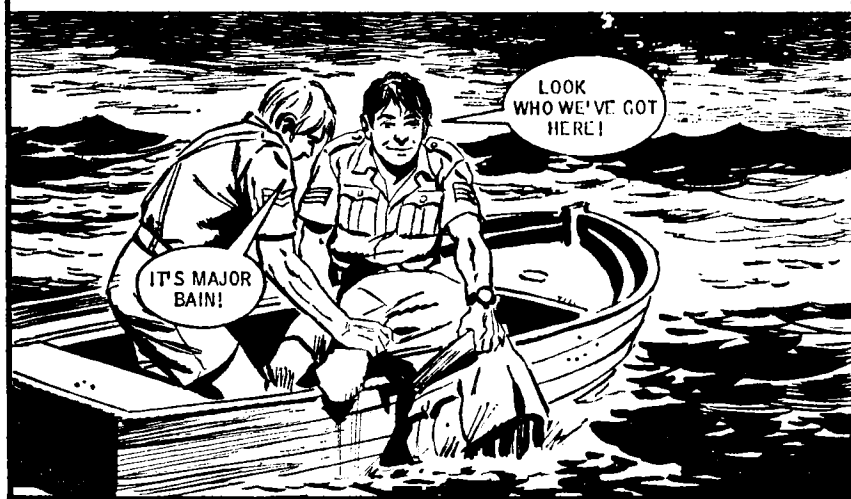
IN MINUTES THE TROOPSHIP SANK, AND FRANK AND JIM WERE AMONG SCORES OF MEN WHO SCRAMBLED DOWN THE SHIP'S HULL AND PLUNGED INTO THE WATER AS SHE TURNED OVER.



IN THE SWIFT-FALLING DARKNESS THE TWO SCRAMBLED INTO A LITTLE DINGHY DRIFTING NEARBY.



SOON BOTH WERE IN THE BOAT AND SEARCHING FOR OTHER SURVIVORS. FRANK COULD HARDLY BELIEVE HIS EYES WHEN THE FIRST MAN WAS PULLED INTO THE BOAT.

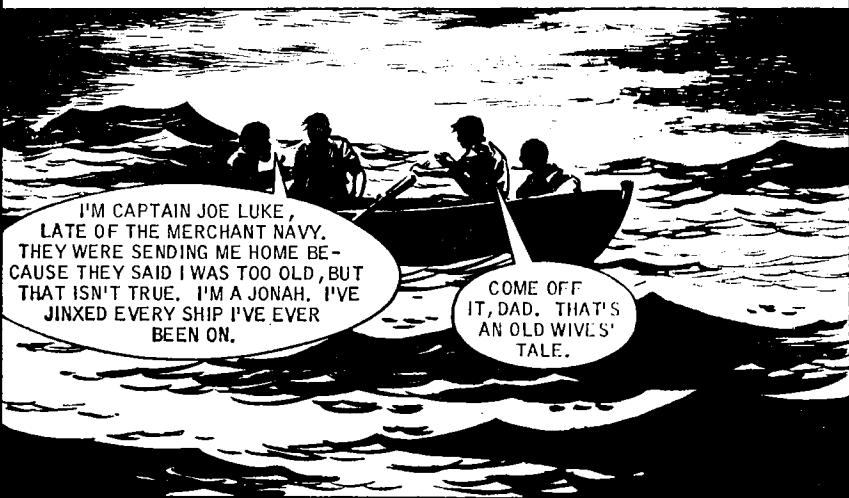




THE MAN WAS ONE JIM AND FRANK HAD OFTEN NOTICED TALKING TO THE SHIP'S OFFICERS. HE NOW GRINNED UP WEAKLY AT THEM AS HE SPOKE.



THE MAN INTRODUCED HIMSELF AS CAPTAIN JOE LUKE, AN OLD MERCHANT NAVY CAPTAIN WHO HAD BEEN GOING HOME TO AN ENFORCED RETIREMENT.



THAT NIGHT WAS THE LONGEST ONE OF THEIR LIVES. BY MORNING THEY WERE STILL ALONE ON AN EMPTY SEA.



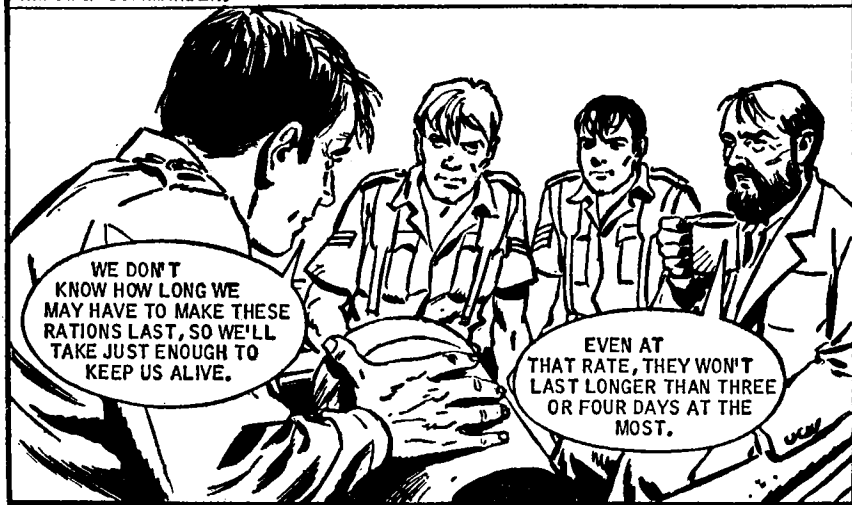
I RANK QUIZZED CAPTAIN LUKE -



YOU'RE A SEAMAN, CAPTAIN LUKE. WHAT DO YOU THINK WILL HAPPEN TO US?

WELL, THIS CURRENT IS CARRYING US NORTH. THAT MEANS WE'LL END UP SOMEWHERE IN GREECE - IF WE LIVE THAT LONG.

ONCE FULLY RECOVERED, BAIN RETURNED TO HIS EFFICIENT SELF AND SOON APPOINTED HIMSELF COMMANDER.



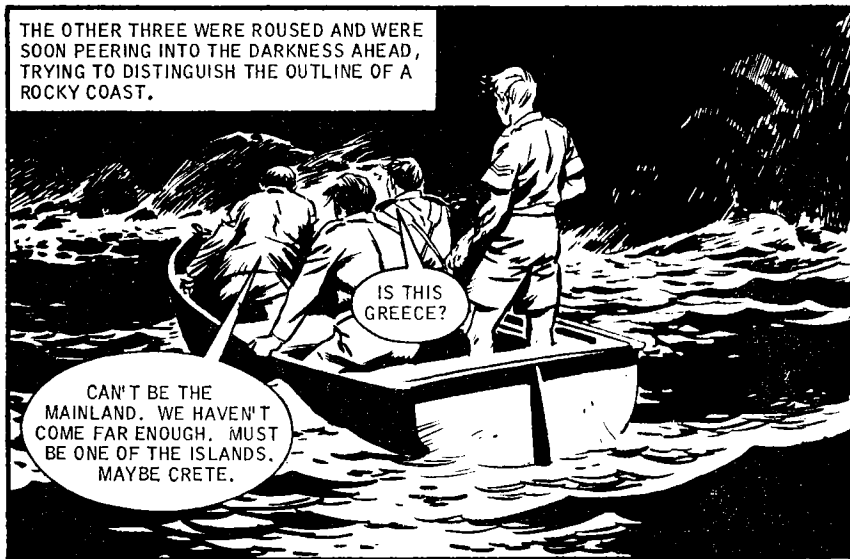
WE DON'T KNOW HOW LONG WE MAY HAVE TO MAKE THESE RATIONS LAST, SO WE'LL TAKE JUST ENOUGH TO KEEP US ALIVE.

EVEN AT THAT RATE, THEY WON'T LAST LONGER THAN THREE OR FOUR DAYS AT THE MOST.

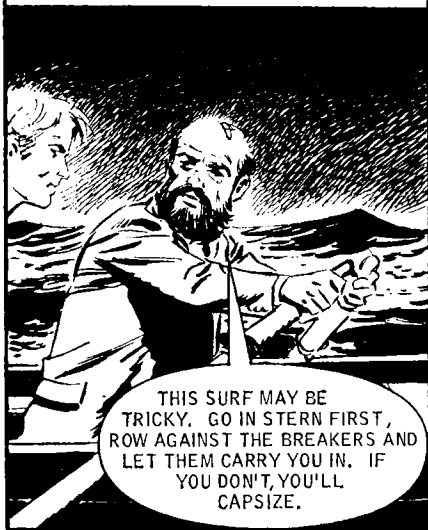
ON THE THIRD NIGHT JIM, ON WATCH, HEARD THE SOUND OF CRASHING SURF.



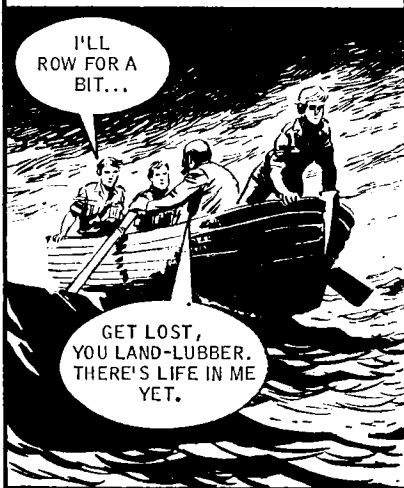
THE OTHER THREE WERE ROUSED AND WERE SOON PEERING INTO THE DARKNESS AHEAD, TRYING TO DISTINGUISH THE OUTLINE OF A ROCKY COAST.



THEN CAPTAIN LUKE TOOK THE OARS.



CAPTAIN LUKE DID NOT LOOK SO OLD AS HE ROWED WITH HIS BACK TO THE BREAKERS.



MINUTES LATER THEY WERE WADING ASHORE THROUGH THE SHALLOWS.



AFTER CONCEALING THE BOAT WITH BUSHES AND SCRUB THEY MOVED CAUTIOUSLY INLAND THROUGH DENSE WOODS.



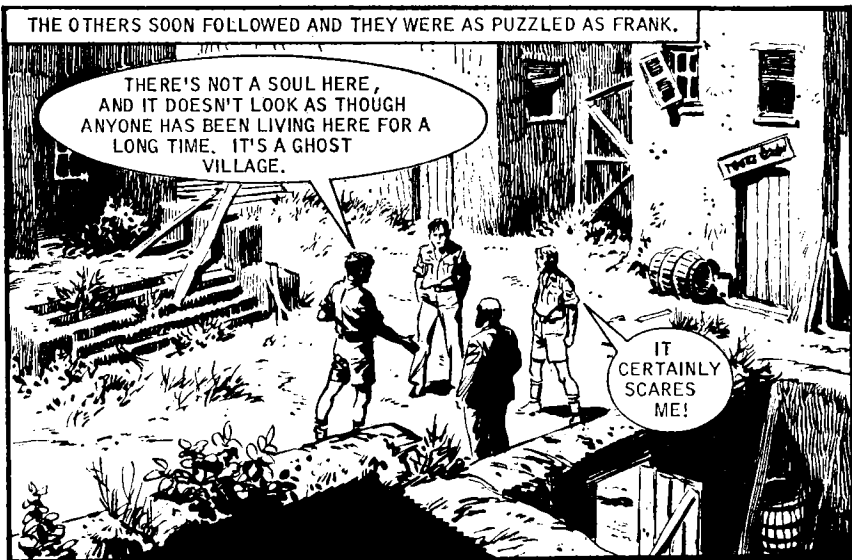
HALF AN HOUR LATER THEY CAME TO A VILLAGE, AND FRANK WENT AHEAD TO RECCE IT.



WHEN FRANK REACHED THE VILLAGE, HE FOUND IT EMPTY. HE LOOKED IN HOUSE AFTER HOUSE BUT FOUND NOTHING — NO FOOD, NO GUNS, NO PEOPLE.



THE OTHERS SOON FOLLOWED AND THEY WERE AS PUZZLED AS FRANK.

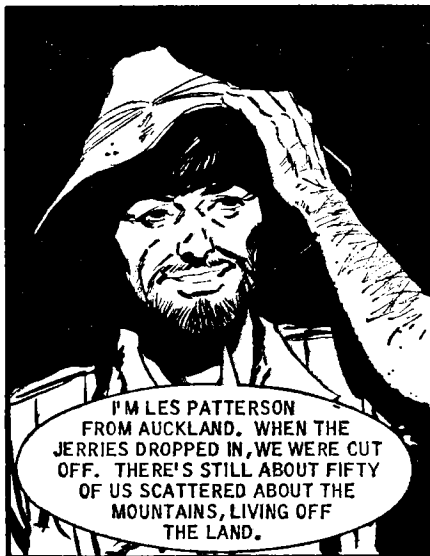


THEY WERE MOVING ON AGAIN THROUGH THE VILLAGE WHEN A HARSH VOICE CALLED OUT FROM THE SHADOWS —

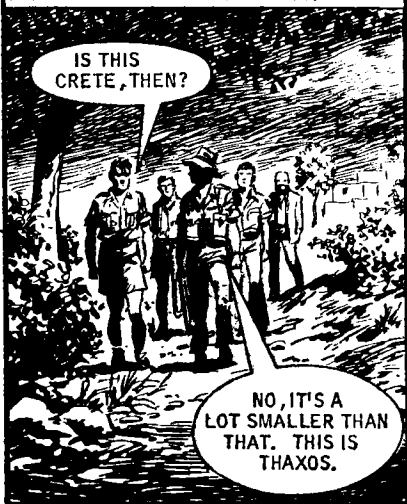


THE OWNER OF THE VOICE STEPPED OUT OF THE SHADOWS, AND THEY WERE RELIEVED TO SEE IT WAS A NEW ZEALAND SOLDIER.





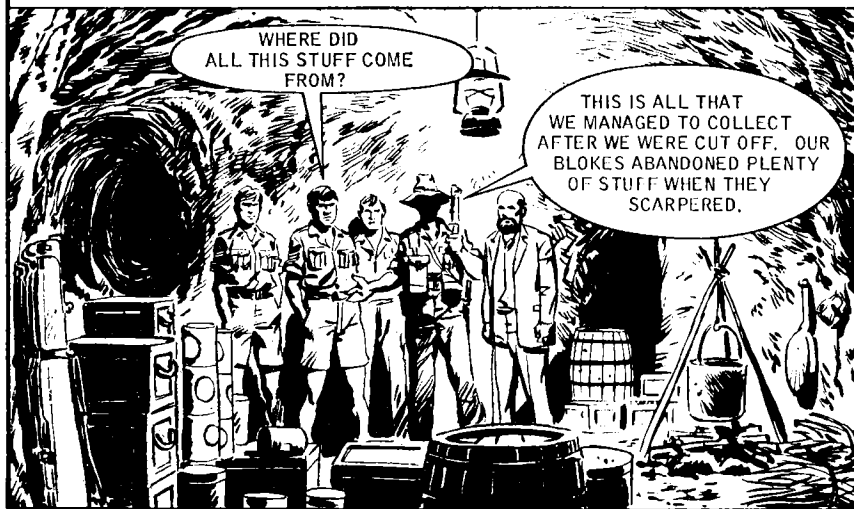
THE INTRODUCTIONS COMPLETE, THEY SET OFF FOR PATTERSON'S HIDE-OUT.



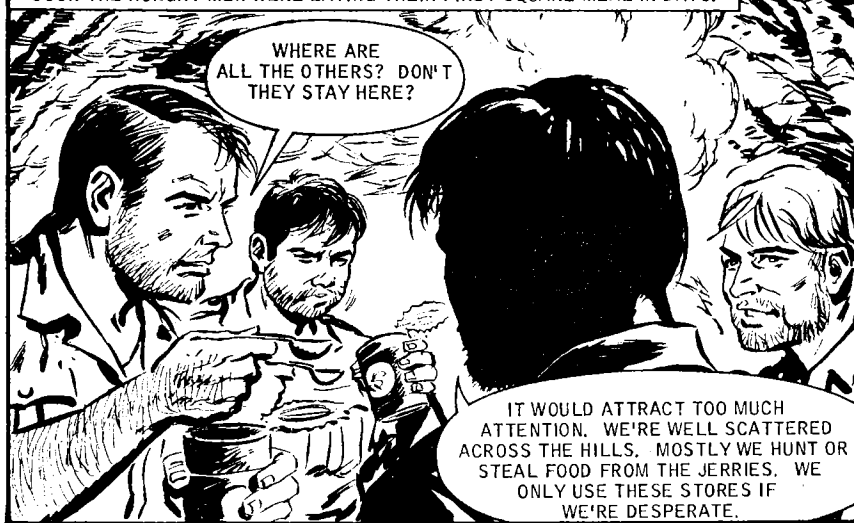
ON THE WAY TO THE HIDE-OUT PATTERSON ALSO EXPLAINED THAT ALTHOUGH THE GERMANS KNEW THERE WERE NEW ZEALANDERS ON THE ISLAND, THEY DID LITTLE TO HUNT THEM DOWN. THE FUGITIVES CAUSED HARDLY ANY TROUBLE IN THEIR ATTEMPTS TO STAY FREE.



PATTERSON TOOK THEM DOWN TO A CAVE FULL OF WEAPONS, AMMUNITION, FOOD AND STORES OF ALL KINDS.



SOON THE HUNGRY MEN WERE EATING THEIR FIRST SQUARE MEAL IN DAYS.



WHEN FRANK SUGGESTED THEY COULD STAY IN THE CAVE THAT NIGHT, BAIN SHOOK HIS HEAD.



WE COULD STAY
HERE TILL TOMORROW
THOUGH.

NO! YOU CAN
GET TRAPPED IN A
CAVE.

AND FRANK LOOKED ASKANCE AT BAIN. SOMEHOW THE MAJOR SEEMED ILL AT EASE, ALMOST FRIGHTENED, TO BE IN THIS CAVE.

WELL, THERE'S A DEEP SCRUB-
COVERED GULLY I COULD TAKE YOU TO.
THERE ARE PLENTY GOOD HIDE-OUTS
ON THIS ISLAND.

NEXT DAY THEY AGREED TO TAKE A LOOK AT THE GERMAN BASE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ISLAND WHICH PATTERSON HAD TOLD THEM ABOUT. NOW THAT THEY WERE ARMED FROM THE SUPPLIES IN THE CAVE THEY FELT CONFIDENT.



CAN YOU
TAKE US TO
THE GERMAN
BASE?

YES, IF YOU
WANT. BUT I DON'T
SEE THE FIVE OF US
DOING MUCH
GOOD.

THE FOLLOWING NIGHT THE NEW ZEALANDER GUIDED THEM ACROSS THE ISLAND TO WHERE THEY COULD LOOK DOWN ON THE GERMANS WORKING ON THEIR SECRET PROJECT - BUILDING A U-BOAT NEAR A SECLUDED, NATURAL HARBOUR.



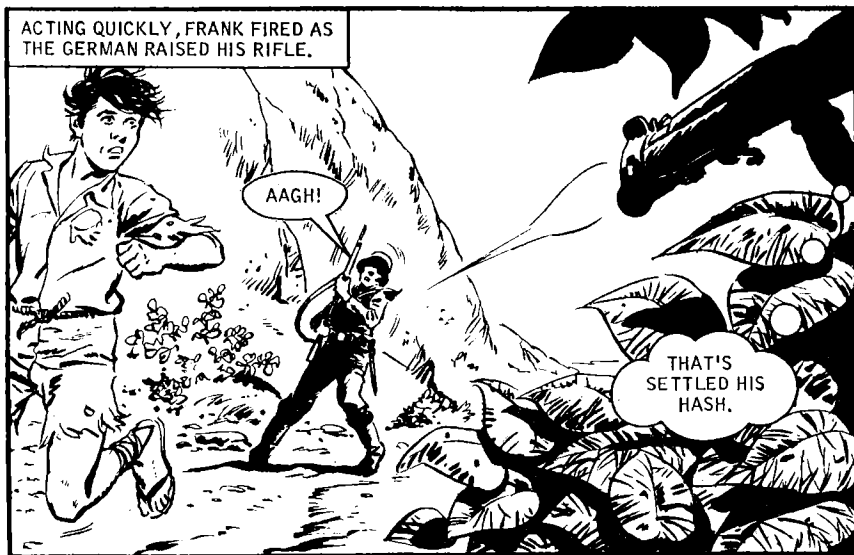
NEXT DAY, FRANK, ON LOOK-OUT A FEW HUNDRED YARDS FROM THE HIDE-OUT, SPOTTED TWO FIGURES APPROACHING. ONE WAS A GERMAN SAILOR WHO WAS HUSTLING THE SECOND, A YOUNG GREEK BOY, BEFORE HIM.



FRANK WATCHED THEM AS THEY CAME CLOSER,
SUDDENLY THE BOY BOLTED.



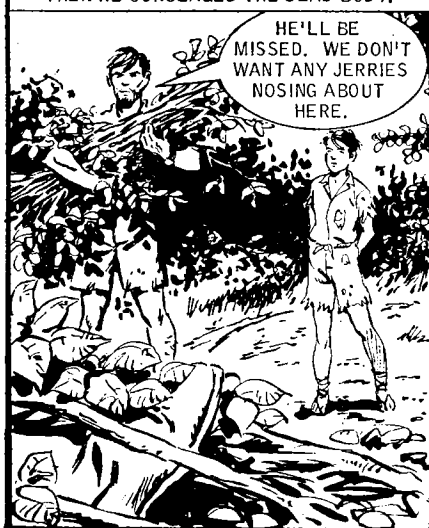
ACTING QUICKLY, FRANK FIRED AS
THE GERMAN RAISED HIS RIFLE.



AS FRANK KNELT BY THE DEAD GERMAN, THE GREEK BOY TURNED AND CAME BACK. HE SPOKE HEAVILY-ACCENTED ENGLISH.



THEN HE CONCEALED THE DEAD BODY.



FRANK HURRIED BACK WITH THE BOY AND TOLD HIS STORY TO BAIN WHO WAS WHITE WITH FURY.



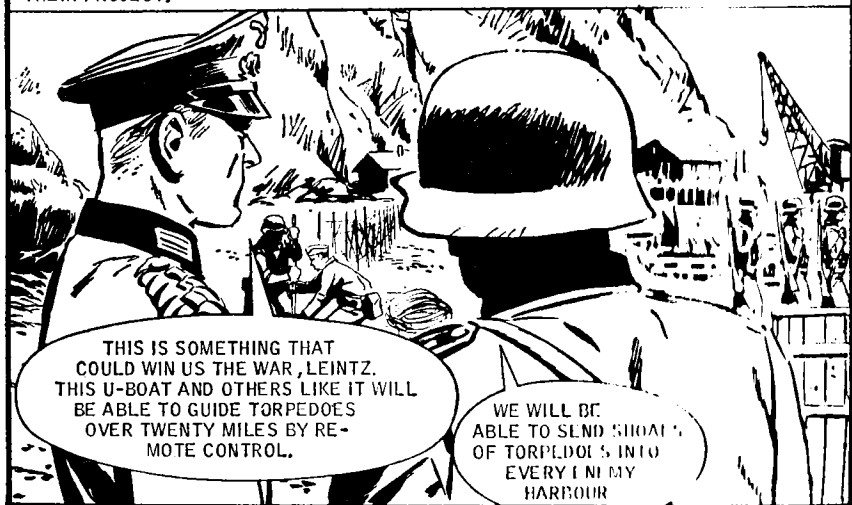
THE TWO MEN'S DISLIKE OF EACH OTHER SHOWED ITSELF NOW AS FRANK'S CAREFREE APPROACH CLASHED WITH BAIN'S EXCESSIVE CAUTION.



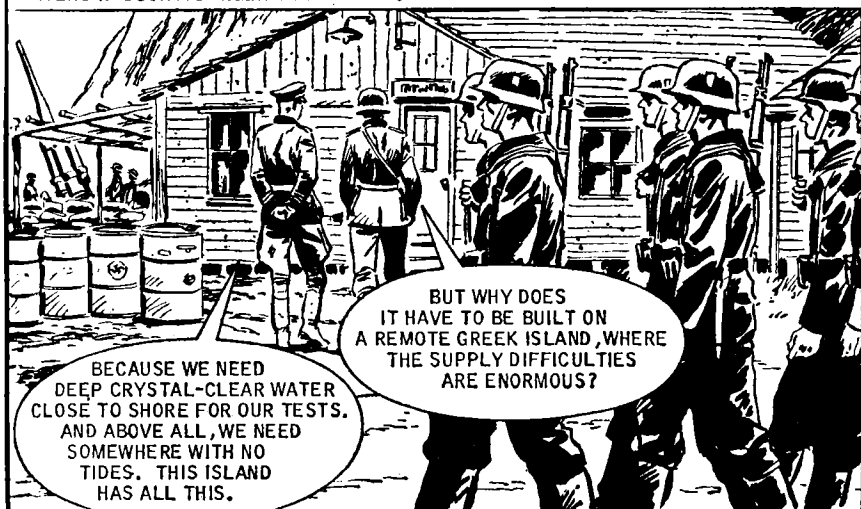
BAIN WAS STALKING OFF WHEN THE BOY RAN AFTER HIM.



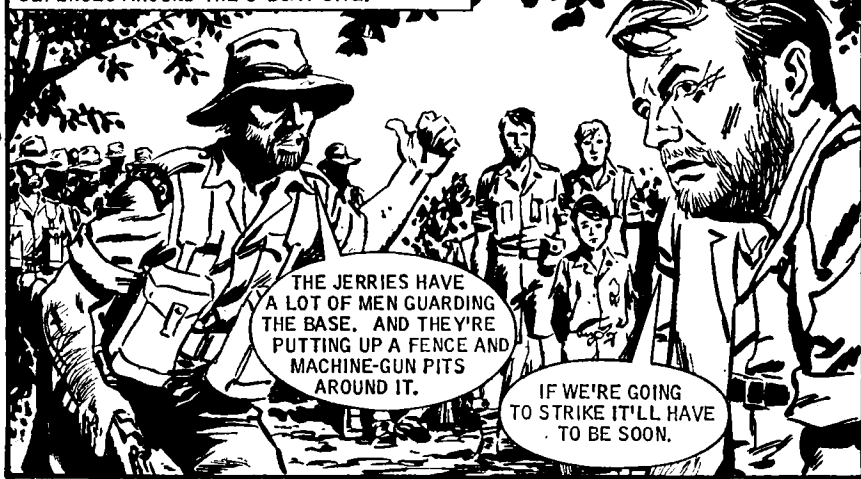
AT THAT VERY MOMENT, AT THE NAZI BASE, THE OFFICERS IN CHARGE WERE DISCUSSING THEIR PROJECT.



THIS SUPER U-BOAT WOULD BE A DEADLY WEAPON. NO ALLIED SHIP COULD SAIL IN THESE WATERS IF SUCH A DANGER THREATENED.



THAT NIGHT PATTERSON TURNED UP WITH TWO DOZEN NEW ZEALANDERS AND THE NEWS THAT THE GERMANS WERE STRENGTHENING THEIR DEFENCES AROUND THE U-BOAT SITE.



THEN FRANK STEPPED FORWARD -

THAT'S ALL VERY WELL
TO SAY, BUT HOW ARE WE
GOING TO CARRY OUT THIS
RAID?

WE CAN'T
AFFORD TO TAKE
UNNECESSARY RISKS. WE'LL
HAVE ANOTHER CLOSE
LOOK AT THE
PLACE.

NEXT DAY BAIN TOOK FRANK AND PATTERSON WITH HIM ON THE RECCE AND NICO'S GUIDED THEM ALONG A MOUNTAIN ROUTE THAT SKIRTED GREAT GORGES AND PRECIPICES.

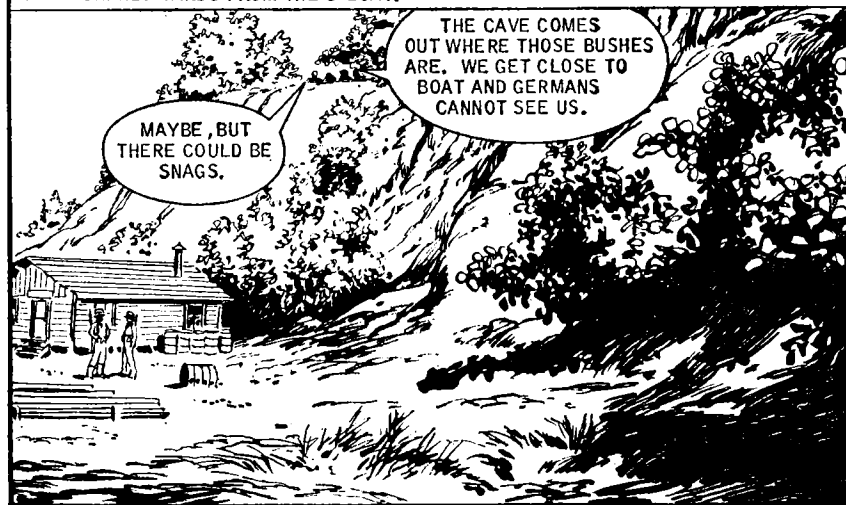
GERMANS NOT
OFTEN COME THIS
WAY.

I DON'T
BLAME THEM. IT'S
ONLY FIT FOR MOUNTAIN
GOATS.

WITHIN THE HOUR THEY WERE OVERLOOKING THE GERMAN BASE.



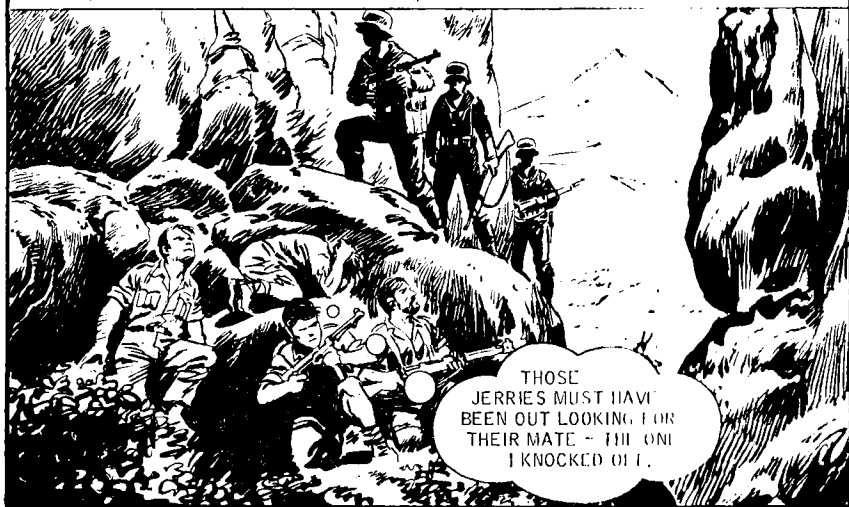
NICOS POINTED DOWN TO A THICK PATCH OF SCRUB BEYOND THE GERMANS, AND ONLY A FEW HUNDRED YARDS FROM THE U-BOAT.



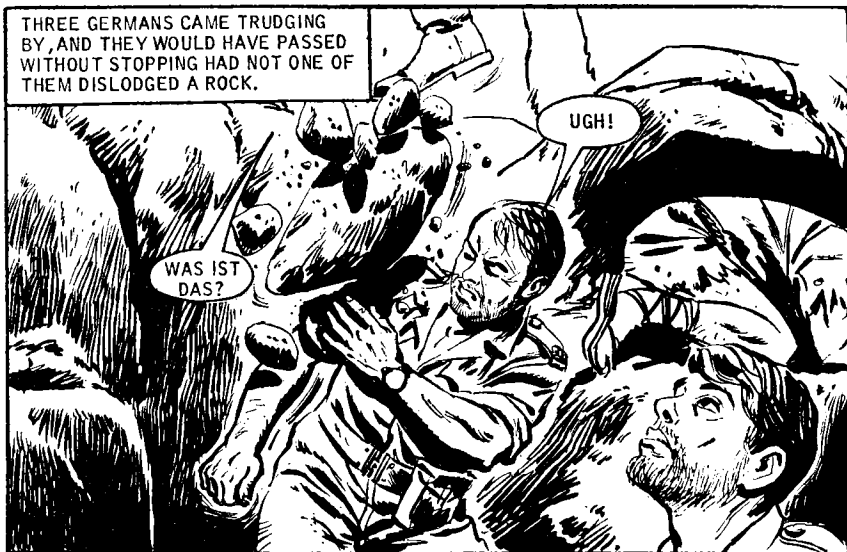
ON THE WAY BACK THEY WERE ROUNDING A BEND ON THE MOUNTAIN WHEN THEY HEARD GUTTURAL VOICES AND THE TRAMP OF JACK-BOOTS.



IN A FLASH NICOS WAS OVER THE EDGE OF THE PATH, CROUCHING IN COVER OF THE ROCKS. IT WAS THE ONLY PLACE TO HIDE, AND THE OTHERS FOLLOWED HIS EXAMPLE.



THREE GERMANS CAME TRUDGING BY, AND THEY WOULD HAVE PASSED WITHOUT STOPPING HAD NOT ONE OF THEM DISLODGED A ROCK.



THE STARTLED GERMAN LOOKED DOWN IN AMAZEMENT -



JUST IN TIME FRANK FIRED.



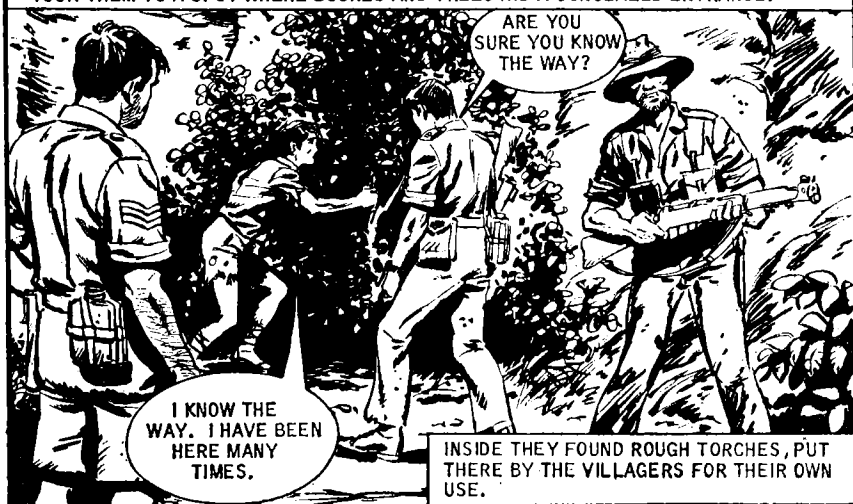
THE OTHER GERMANS WHIRLED, BUT BEFORE THEY COULD DO ANYTHING PATTERSON AND FRANK GOT THEM.



THEY SCRAMBLED BACK ONTO THE PATH, BAIN STILL RUBBING HIS INJURED SHOULDER.



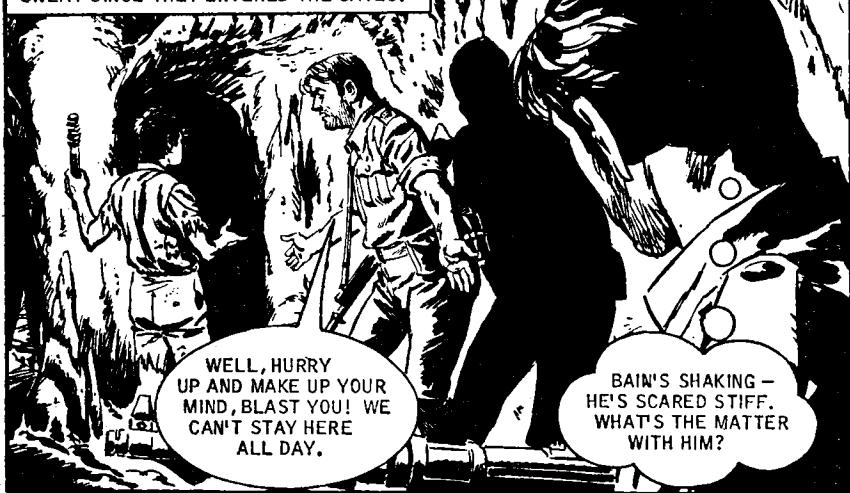
NEXT DAY THEY STARTED OUT TO SEE THE SECRET CAVES, WITH NICOS AS GUIDE. HE TOOK THEM TO A SPOT WHERE BUSHES AND TREES HID A CONCEALED ENTRANCE.



THIS WAS NOT JUST ONE CAVE, BUT A WARREN OF TUNNELS WITH BRANCHES FORKING IN ALL DIRECTIONS. THEY PLODDED ON AND ON UNTIL NICOS HALTED AT A FORK, AS THOUGH UNCERTAIN.



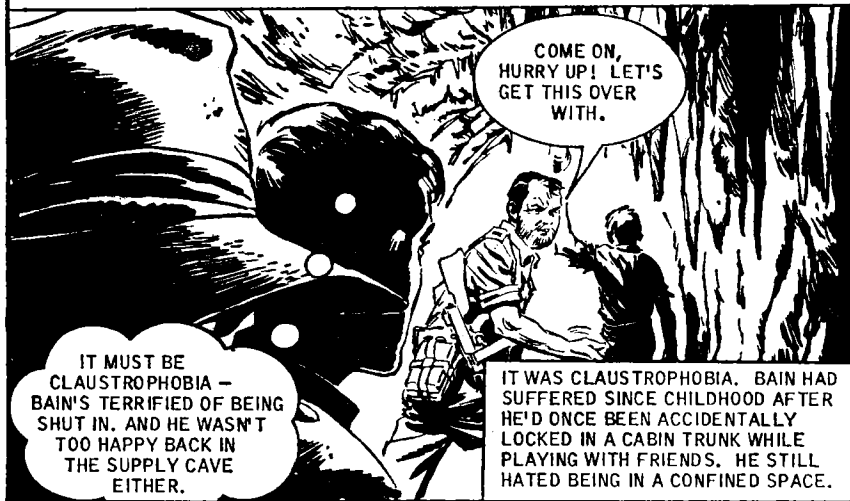
FRANK HAD NOTICED BAIN WAS TREMBLING AND THAT HIS FACE HAD BEEN BATHED IN SWEAT SINCE THEY ENTERED THE CAVES.



WELL, HURRY UP AND MAKE UP YOUR MIND, BLAST YOU! WE CAN'T STAY HERE ALL DAY.

BAIN'S SHAKING — HE'S SCARED STIFF. WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH HIM?

AS NICOS LED THEM ON, FRANK FELT A GRIM SATISFACTION THAT BAIN WITH ALL HIS IRON RUTHLESSNESS HAD A WEAKNESS.



COME ON, HURRY UP! LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH.

IT MUST BE CLAUSTROPHOBIA — BAIN'S TERRIFIED OF BEING SHUT IN. AND HE WASN'T TOO HAPPY BACK IN THE SUPPLY CAVE EITHER.

IT WAS CLAUSTROPHOBIA. BAIN HAD SUFFERED SINCE CHILDHOOD AFTER HE'D ONCE BEEN ACCIDENTALLY LOCKED IN A CABIN TRUNK WHILE PLAYING WITH FRIENDS. HE STILL HATED BEING IN A CONFINED SPACE.

AT LAST THEY FELT A BREATH OF COOL AIR.

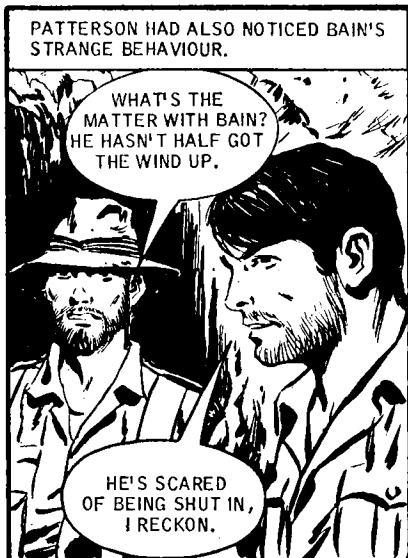
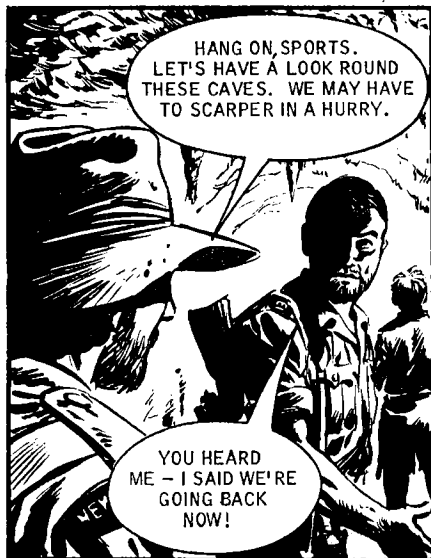
NOT FAR
TO THE END OF
CAVE NOW.

SO BAIN'S
NOT SUCH A
TOUGH GUY AFTER
ALL.

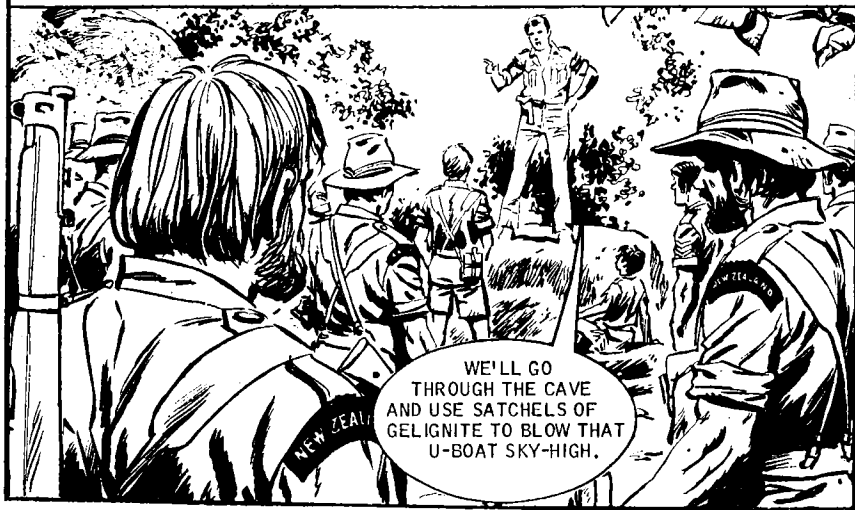
TO GET A GOOD VIEW THEY GENTLY PUSHED ASIDE THE SCRUB AND BUSHES THAT HID THE EXIT.

WE ARE INSIDE
THE DEFENCES HERE.
NOTHING BETWEEN US
AND THE U-BOAT.

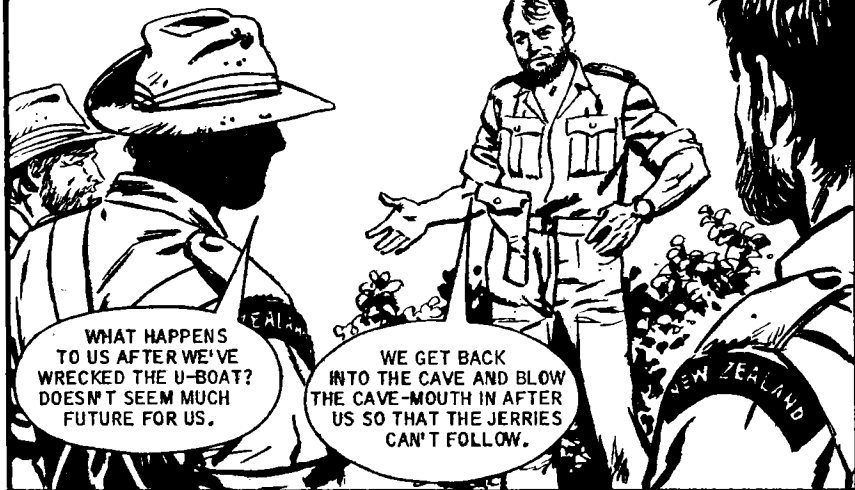
YES, WE COULD MAKE OUR
ATTACK FROM HERE. THERE ARE
PLENTY OF EXPLOSIVES AMONGST THE
STORES IN THE CAVE DUMP... ALL
RIGHT, LET'S GET BACK.



BUT ONCE OUT IN THE OPEN BAIN RECOVERED FAST. AND THAT EVENING, BRIEFING HIS MEN, HE WAS HIS SHARP, ASSURED SELF.



BAIN ASKED IF THERE WERE ANY QUESTIONS, AND THERE WAS ONE -



WHAT HAPPENS TO US AFTER WE'VE WRECKED THE U-BOAT? DOESN'T SEEM MUCH FUTURE FOR US.

WE GET BACK INTO THE CAVE AND BLOW THE CAVE-MOUTH IN AFTER US SO THAT THE JERRIES CAN'T FOLLOW.

THEY MADE THEIR PREPARATIONS AND MOVED SILENTLY INTO THE CAVES THE FOLLOWING NIGHT.



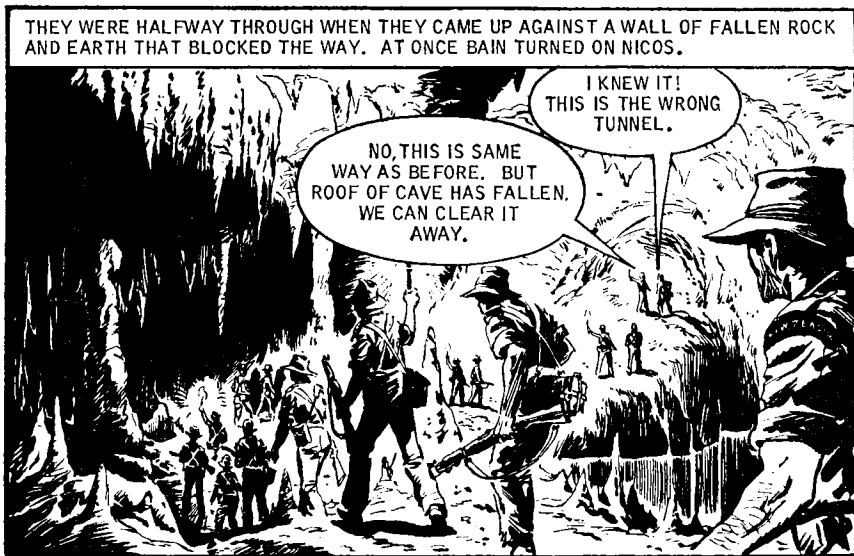
RIGHT, THIS IS IT. LET'S GET GOING.

BAIN'S GETTING INTO A SWEAT ALREADY ABOUT THOSE CAVES.

AS SOON AS THEY SET FOOT IN THE CAVES BAIN WAS JITTERY.



THEY WERE HALFWAY THROUGH WHEN THEY CAME UP AGAINST A WALL OF FALLEN ROCK AND EARTH THAT BLOCKED THE WAY. AT ONCE BAIN TURNED ON NICOS.



THEY TOILED FURIOUSLY TO CLEAR AWAY THE DEBRIS. BAIN WAS LIKE A MAN POSSESSED, TEARING AT THE ROCKS TILL HIS FINGERS BLED.



WORK FASTER,
BLAST YOU! WE CAN'T
STAY TRAPPED.

HE'S GOING
OFF HIS NUT, BEING
COOPED UP IN
HERE.

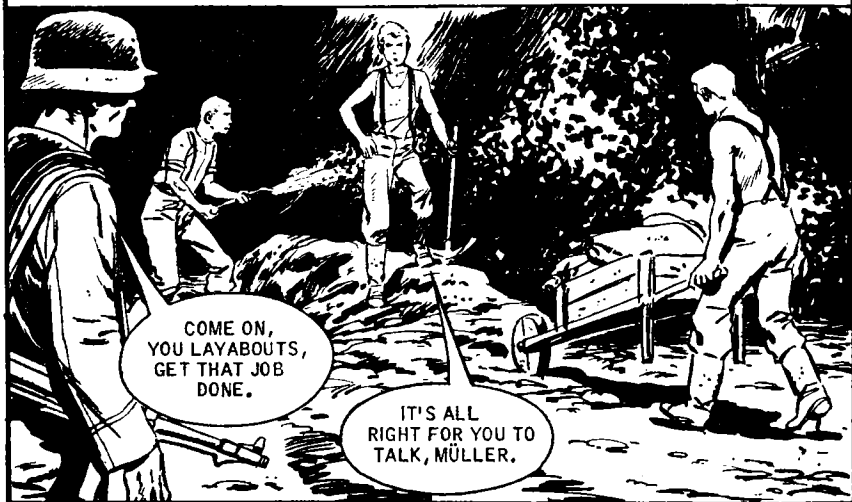
THEN THEY WERE THROUGH, WITH BAIN ON THE VERGE OF HYSTERIA. WHEN THEY EVENTUALLY REACHED THE EXIT HE WAS SO EAGER TO GET INTO THE OPEN THAT HE SCRAMBLED UP TOWARDS THE ENTRANCE, LOST HIS FOOTING AND SLITHERED BACKWARDS.



KEEP QUIET.
THERE COULD BE
JERRIES JUST
OUTSIDE.

BLAST!

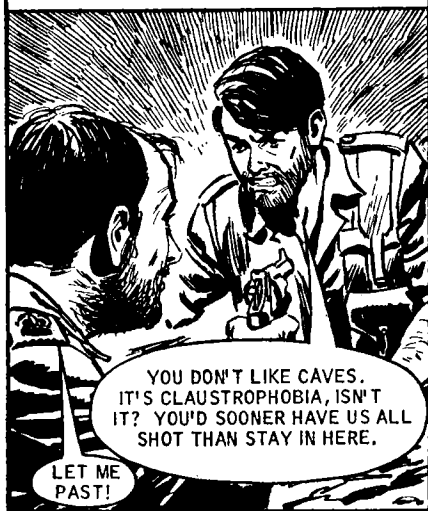
AS FRANK PEERED OUT OF THE CAVE HE GAVE A GASP OF DISMAY. A NEW MACHINE-GUN NEST WAS UNDER CONSTRUCTION DESPITE THE LATE HOUR.



BAIN CLIMBED UP TO THE CAVE MOUTH AND FRANK COULD SEE HIM SHAKING WITH FEAR, AFTER ANGRILY ORDERING ALL TORCHES TO BE DOUSED.



FRANK SPOKE DETERMINEDLY AS HE CAUGHT BAIN'S ARM.



YOU DON'T LIKE CAVES.
IT'S CLAUSTROPHOBIA, ISN'T
IT? YOU'D SOONER HAVE US ALL
SHOT THAN STAY IN HERE.

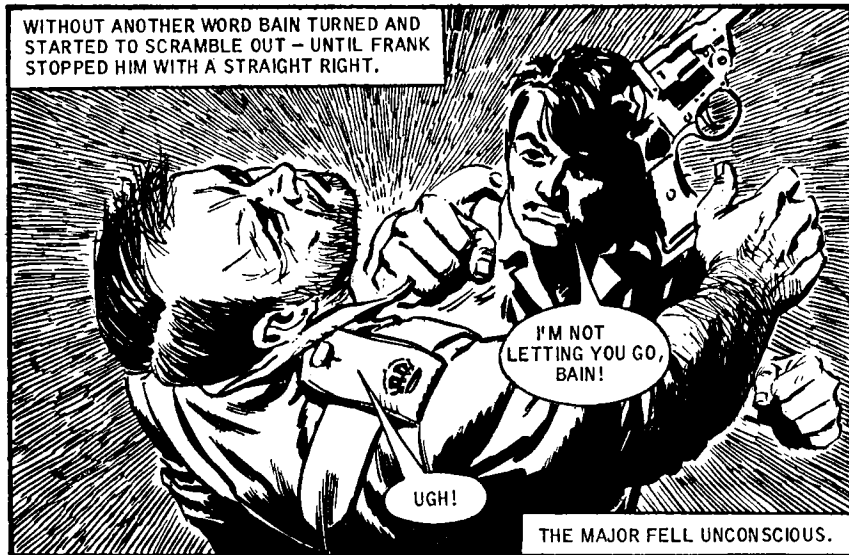
LET ME
PAST!

BAIN'S FACE WAS BATHED IN SWEAT.



I'M IN
COMMAND HERE...
YOU'LL DO AS I
SAY!

WITHOUT ANOTHER WORD BAIN TURNED AND
STARTED TO SCRAMBLE OUT - UNTIL FRANK
STOPPED HIM WITH A STRAIGHT RIGHT.



I'M NOT
LETTING YOU GO,
BAIN!

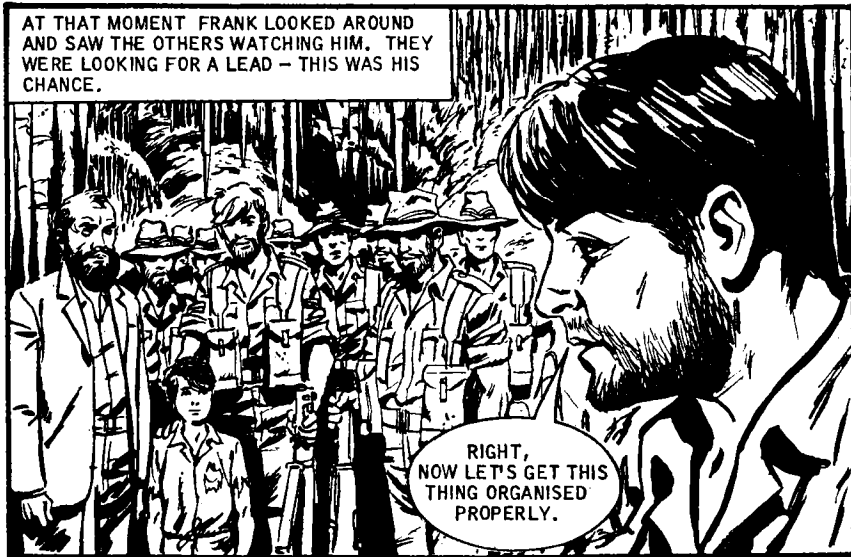
UGH!

THE MAJOR FELL UNCONSCIOUS.

OUTSIDE, THE GERMANS WORKED UNDISTURBED.



AT THAT MOMENT FRANK LOOKED AROUND AND SAW THE OTHERS WATCHING HIM. THEY WERE LOOKING FOR A LEAD - THIS WAS HIS CHANCE.



BUT IT WAS NOT GOING TO BE AS EASY AS ALL THAT. THE HARD-BITTEN NEW ZEALANDERS HAD NEVER TAKEN KINDLY TO AUTHORITY AND DISCIPLINE, EVEN UNDER A MAJOR LIKE BAIN.



FRANK SPOKE GRIMLY -

I'LL TELL YOU WHO I AM. I'M SERGEANT FRANK RYDER, SENIOR RANK HERE, AND YOU'LL TAKE MY ORDERS AND LUMP IT!



THEN CAPTAIN LUKE CHIMED IN.

LISTEN, I USED TO BE CAPTAIN OF A TANKER WITH OVER A HUNDRED OF A CREW. BUT I'LL TAKE ORDERS FROM THIS BLOKE. AND IF I CAN, YOU CAN.



THE OLD SEA-DOG'S SPEECH BROKE THE TENSION. THE ROUGH-NECK NEW ZEALANDERS GRINNED. NOW THEY WOULD FOLLOW FRANK.



FRANK OUTLINED HIS PLANS.



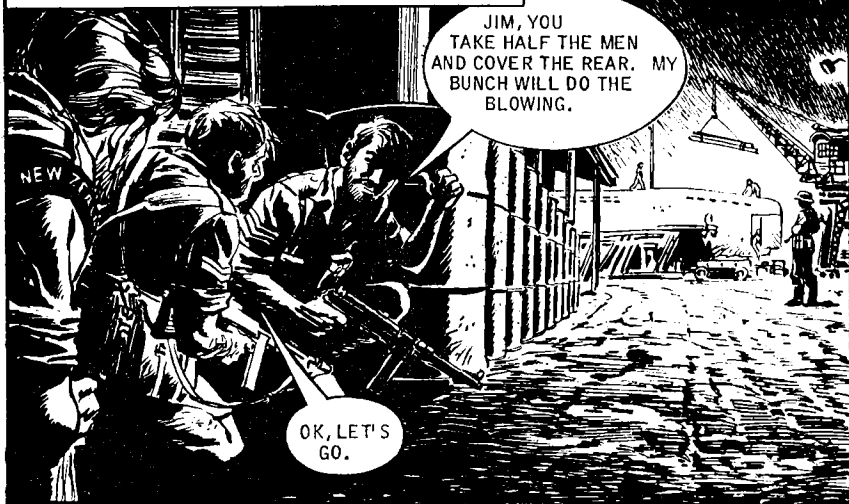
THEY WAITED INSIDE THE CAVE FOR WHAT SEEMED HOURS. THEN THEIR PATIENCE PAID OFF.



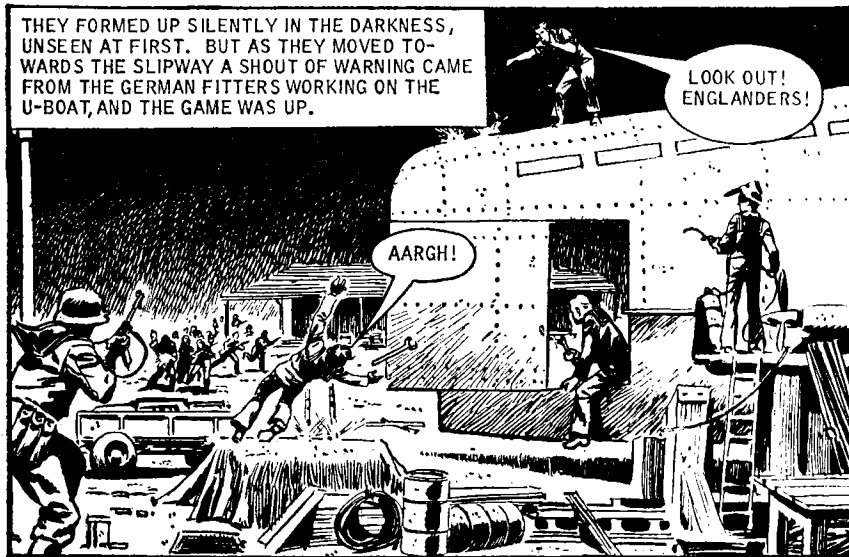
LEAVING NICOS TO LOOK AFTER THE UNCONSCIOUS BAIN, THEY CAUTIOUSLY MOVED OUT OF THE CAVE.



THEY CREPT FORWARD, STEALING A FEW YARDS AT A TIME, THEN THEY SAW THEIR TARGET.



THEY FORMED UP SILENTLY IN THE DARKNESS, UNSEEN AT FIRST. BUT AS THEY MOVED TOWARDS THE SLIPWAY A SHOUT OF WARNING CAME FROM THE GERMAN FITTERS WORKING ON THE U-BOAT, AND THE GAME WAS UP.



THE MEN WORKING ON THE U-BOAT TURNED. THEN A BLAST OF FIRE CUT DOWN THE GUARDS, AND THE REST SCATTERED.



FRANK AND HIS MEN GOT BUSY SETTING THE EXPLOSIVES AS THE BASE ERUPTED INTO FURY AROUND THEM.



QUICKLY THE GERMANS RECOVERED AND SWUNG INTO ACTION.

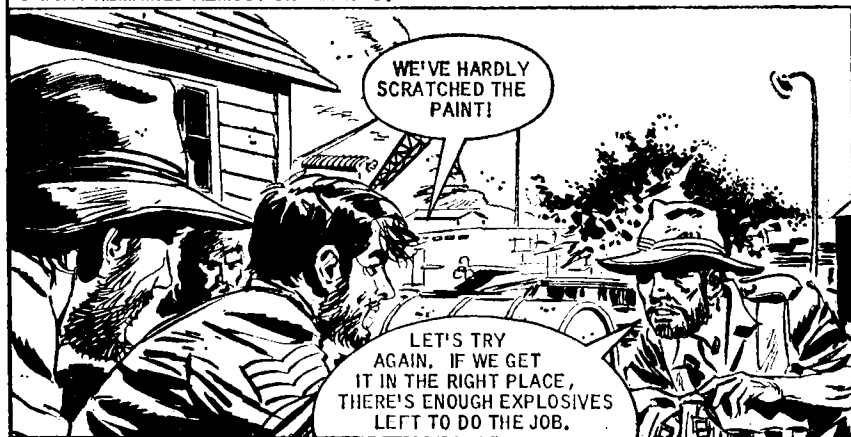


THEN THE EXPLOSIVES WERE SET AND THE ONLY THING LEFT TO DO WAS TO GET AWAY FROM THE U-BOAT — FAST.





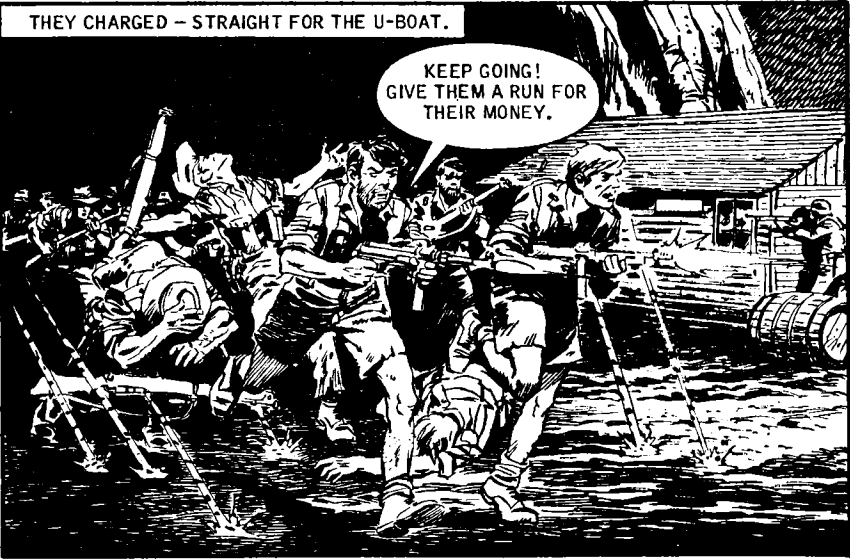
THE EXPLOSIVES DETONATED, BUT THE EXPECTED HUGE BLAST DID NOT COME — AND THE U-BOAT REMAINED ALMOST UNDAUNTED.



IT MEANT USING THE EXPLOSIVES INTENDED TO BLOCK THEIR ESCAPE ROUTE THROUGH THE CAVES, BUT IT WAS A RISK THEY HAD TO TAKE.

THEY CHARGED - STRAIGHT FOR THE U-BOAT.

KEEP GOING!
GIVE THEM A RUN FOR
THEIR MONEY.



AT A HEAVY COST THEY REACHED THE U-BOAT. THE AIR WAS FILLED WITH FLYING BULLETS AS CAPTAIN LUKE GRABBED THE EXPLOSIVES FROM PATTERSON.

HEY!
WHAT ARE YOU
DOING?



YOU LANDLUBBERS
DON'T KNOW A PROPELLER
FROM A CORKSCREW. I'LL
PLANT THIS STUFF INSIDE THE
SUB - AND DON'T WAIT FOR
ME TO COME
OUT.

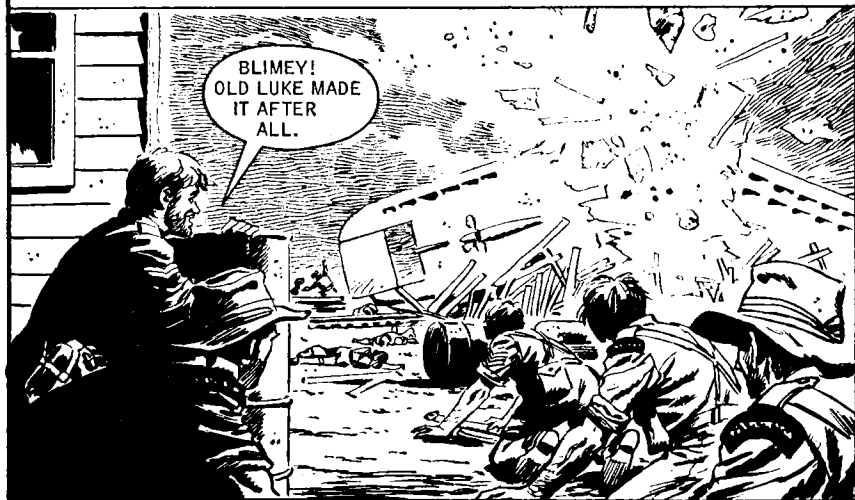
BEFORE ANYONE COULD STOP HIM, CAPTAIN LUKE WAS CLAMBERING ABOARD THE U-BOAT WITH THE EXPLOSIVES.



THE TIME HAD COME TO GO, BUT FRANK WAS HESITANT TO LEAVE CAPTAIN LUKE.



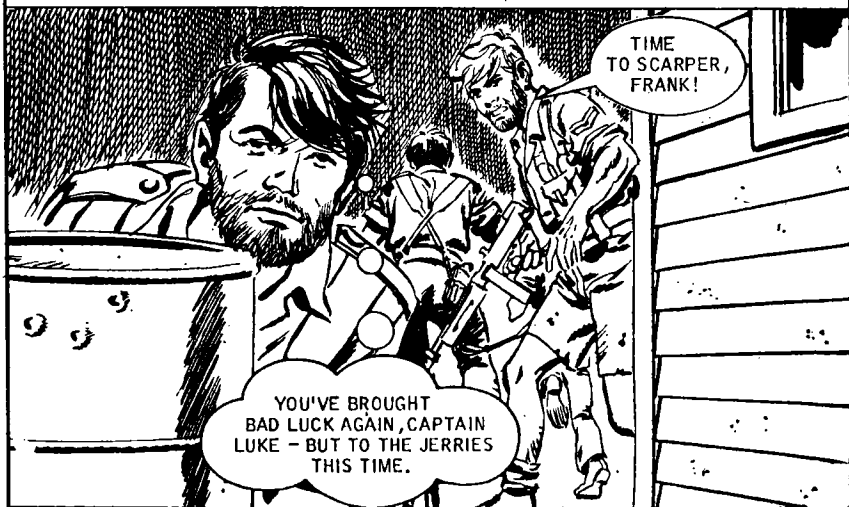
THEY RAN THE GAUNTLET AGAIN, BUT SOON REACHED THE COVER OF THE BUILDINGS. AT THAT SAME MOMENT A POWERFUL EXPLOSION BLEW THE U-BOAT'S HULL APART.



THEN THE MASSIVE SUBMARINE SLID DOWN THE SLIPWAY AND TOPPLED ONTO ITS SIDE IN THE WATER. CAPTAIN LUKE HAD DONE HIS JOB WELL.



THE WATER POURED IN THROUGH THE GAPS IN THE HULL AND THE SUB ROLLED OVER AND SANK. BACK IN THE COVER OF THE BUILDINGS AGAIN, THE RAIDERS PREPARED TO LEAVE.



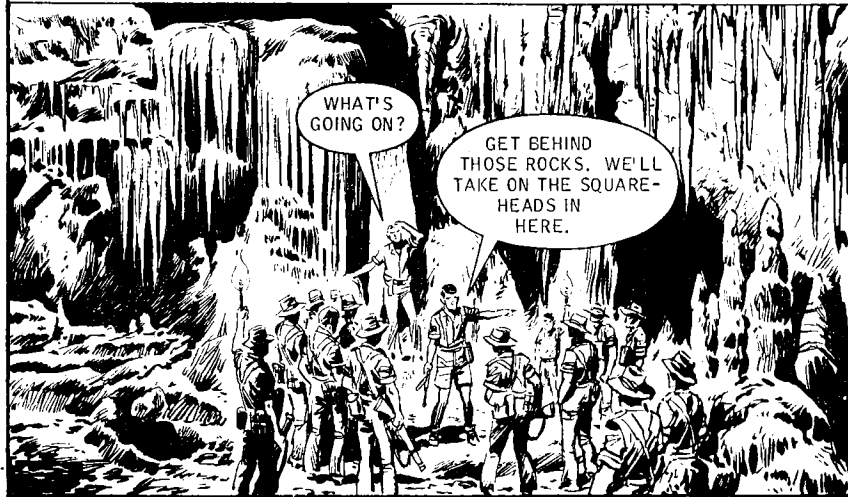
WITH THE GERMANS HOT ON THEIR HEELS, FRANK AND HIS MEN SCRAMBLED INTO THE CAVE.



WITH FRANK SUPPORTING THE DAZED BAIN, THE RAIDERS MADE THEIR WAY BACK THROUGH THE MAZE OF TUNNELS.



QUICKLY THEY REACHED A LARGE GROTTO FULL OF STALAGMITES AND STALACTITES AND FRANK DECIDED THAT IT WAS TIME FOR A SHOW-DOWN WITH THE PURSUING GERMANS.



THE GERMANS, TOO, WERE EAGER FOR A FIGHT.



AND UP AHEAD, FRANK WAS GLAD TO FIND BAIN WAS NOT CAUSING A FUSS.



MOMENTS LATER THE NAZIS BURST INTO VIEW —



THE NAZI'S QUESTION WAS ANSWERED IN MURDEROUS FASHION AS FRANK AND THE OTHERS SPRANG FROM HIDING.



IN THE HEAT OF BATTLE BAIN SEEMED TO LOSE HIS FEAR OF THE CAVES — AND HE CERTAINLY HAD NO FEAR OF THE GERMANS.



THE FIGHT WAS SOON OVER AND THE NAZIS WERE LOSERS.

GOOD GOING,
SIR.

YOU TOO,
SERGEANT. YOU'VE
HANDLED THIS VERY
WELL - EVEN TO
THUMPING
ME!

THE RAID HAD BEEN A SUCCESS, THOUGH NOT WITHOUT COST. BUT AT LEAST THERE WAS NO GRUDGE HELD BY BAIN WHO WAS MAN ENOUGH TO ADMIT HIS FEAR NOW.

NO HARD
FEELINGS,
SIR?

NO, YOU WERE RIGHT TO SOCK
ME ONE BACK THERE - AND I WAS WRONG
ABOUT YOU. YOU ARE OFFICER MATERIAL AND
IF WE GET OFF THIS ISLAND ALIVE, I'LL
DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

THEN NICOS SPOKE UP -

KAPITANO,
I KNOW WHERE
BOATS ARE. FISHERMEN
USED THEM. WE CAN
ESCAPE.

NO, IT
WOULDN'T
BE ON.

IT MIGHT WORK.
THE COMMOTION WE
CAUSED COULD HAVE ATTRACTED
SOME ATTENTION - FROM THE
R.A.F. OR THE
NAVY.

FRANK HAD MADE SENSE. WITHIN A HALF-HOUR THEY WERE OUT OF THE CAVALS AND PUSHING THREE FISHING BOATS INTO THE WATER FROM ANOTHER PART OF THE COAST.

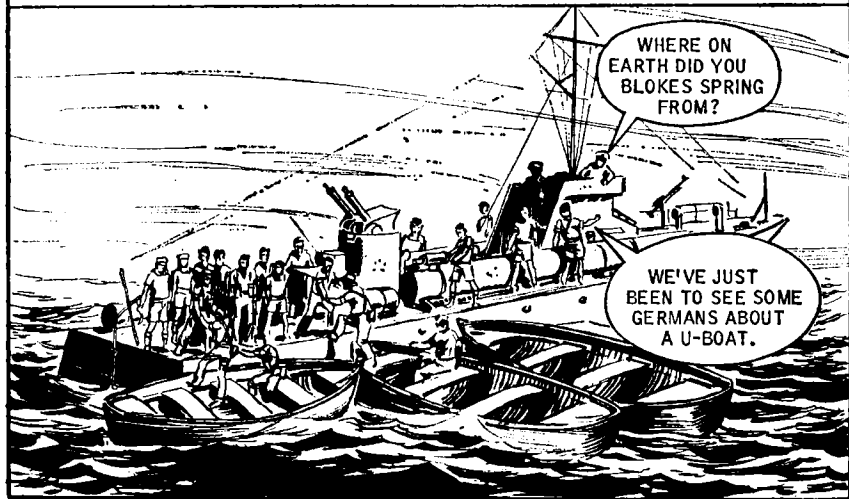
I ALWAYS
FANCED JOINING
THE NAVY.

NOW'S
YOUR CHANCE,
MATE.

THE GAMBLE PAID OFF, AND BY EARLY MORNING A ROYAL NAVY PATROL BOAT, ATTRACTED BY REPORTS OF EXPLOSIONS ON THAXOS, WAS HEADING TOWARDS THEM.



THE DUMFOUNDED CAPTAIN OF THE M.T.B. WATCHED AS THE RAGGED HEROES OF THAXOS CLAMBERED ABOARD.




ONCE THEY WERE SAFELY BACK AT THEIR BASE BAIN PROVED TRUE TO HIS WORD. FOR WHEN THEY RETURNED TO THAXOS A FEW MONTHS LATER AS SPEARHEAD OF AN INVASION FORCE, FRANK WAS A LIEUTENANT AND JIM A SERGEANT.



AND CLEAN OUT THE BASE THEY DID. ALTHOUGH THE NAZIS HAD BEGUN TO BUILD ANOTHER OF THE SUPER U-BOATS, THEY WOULD NEVER GET THE CHANCE TO FINISH IT.



AND IT WAS NOT UNTIL NOW THAT THE FULL IMPORTANCE OF THE FIRST THAXOS RAID WAS DISCOVERED, AND THEY REALISED HOW MUCH THEY OWED TO THE PLUCKY CAPTAIN LUKE.



JUST THINK.
IF THE JERRIES HAD
BUILT THOSE U-BOATS,
THEY MIGHT HAVE WON
THE WAR BY
NOW.

WELL, THEY
DIDN'T. AND I RECKON
THE MESS WE MADE OF
THEIR FIRST ONE HAD A
LOT TO DO WITH
IT!

Commando
THE END

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LEEDS UNITED



ALLAN CLARKE

STRIKING out for goal in his first full international for England against Czechoslovakia in the last World Cup, Allan Clarke showed the sort of form which made Leeds splash out £165,000 to buy him from Leicester City. He scored the only goal of that game from the penalty spot, proving he could keep his cool even in the heat of Mexico!

Always on the look-out for goals, Allan is nicknamed "Sniffer" by his Elland Road team-mates because of his amazing ability to sniff out the merest half-chance of a goal.

Deadly in the air, and oh-so-accurate on the ground, this ice-cool finisher never tires of seeing the ball hit the back of the net.

THE FIGHTING MAJOR

ON the Mediterranean island of Thaxos, the Nazis had a secret research station where they were working on a weapon that could win the war. Unfortunately for the Nazis there were others on the island too—for instance Major George Bain, a New Zealand private, an old sea-captain and a fourteen-year-old boy!

What could a strange bunch like that achieve? You'd be surprised . . . just like the Nazis were!

